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16. The microporous heat insulation body according to claim 8, characterized in that the core and the cover are heat-sealed within a sheet.
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REMARKS

Claims 8-16, presented hereby, are pending.

Claims 8-10 represent the subject matter of original claims 1-3, respectively, claims 11 and 12 represent the subject matter of original claim 4, claims 13 and 14 represent the subject matter of original claim 5, and claims 15 and 16 represent the subject matter of claims 6 and 7, respectively.

Reconsideration is requested with respect to the rejection of claims 4 and 5 under 35 USC 112, ¶2, for allegedly being indefinite, in view of the changes reflected in replacement claims 11-14, submitted hereby.

The term "preferably" is not found in any of the present claims. Subject matter associated with the term "preferably" in each of claims 4 and 5 is made the subject of new dependent claims 12 and 14, respectively. Accordingly, the §112, ¶2, rejection is not applicable against the present claims.

The rejection for obviousness-type double patenting is "provisional," i.e., the allegedly conflicting claims have neither been patented nor allowed. The rejection is premature, to the extent that there is as yet no indication that any of the allegedly conflicting claims will be allowed, let alone patented. That is, unless and until such time that there is, in fact, an indication of allowability with respect to conflicting claims, allegedly or otherwise, Applicants need take no action with respect to

the rejection. For example, claims in the respective applications might be amended such that the Examiner, theoretically, would find that no conflicting claims remain and, therefore, withdraw the rejection. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection be held in abeyance unless and until such time as the Examiner finds a conflict between patented claims in the other application, on the one hand, and otherwise allowable claims in the instant application, on the other.

Reconsideration is requested with respect to the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 USC 103(a) for alleged obviousness over the combined teachings of the references cited in the statements of rejection.

The presently claimed invention is directed to a microporous heat insulation body, wherein one or both surfaces have a cover, these covers consisting of prefabricated mica sheets.

Kratel et al., '496 discloses a heat insulating board. The sites of the heat insulating board are covered by two metal sheets (5) which are directed against the heat flow. Additionally, the metal foils (5) is combined with a further cover element (6) which prevents heat flow from one metal sheet to the other. According to Kratel et al. ('496) the cover (5) made of a metal foil has good insulating properties because it reflects heat radiation. With the second element (6), heat flow between the metal foils can be prevented. As acknowledged in the statement of rejection, Kratel does not disclose a cover made out of mica.

Iwabuchi et al. discloses a thin insulating sheet comprising an associated mica sheet containing a polymer fibril. According to claim 2, the polymer is made of aromatic polyamide. This sheet can be melt-bonded to a polymer film (see Iwabuchi column 2, lines 38-39).

Therefore, Iwabuchi differs from the presently claimed invention in that a mica sheet comprising substantial amounts of an aromatic polyamide are used. The presently claimed invention refers to a cover which consists of mica. The complete heat insulation body should not contain organic or combustible components (present specification page, paragraph 5). Iwabuchi only discloses that it can be melt-bonded to a polymer film; whereas, the presently claimed invention involves bonding to an inorganic heat insulating body.

Kratel et al. '496 does not provide any motivation to substitute the metal foil by a mica sheet. Even when considering Iwabuchi, a person skilled in the art would not consider to use a foil consisting substantially only of mica (without polyamide fibers) and the person skilled in the art would not know that this mica sheet can be bonded to an inorganic heat insulating body.

As Iwabuchi is mainly concerned with electrical insulation, the skilled artisan would not expect that the bending strength can be substantially increased and the thermal conductivity reduced. Therefore, it is not obvious to combine Kratel et al. ('496) and Iwabuchi. Whether or not the remaining claims have features patentably distinguishing the cited references is not an issue, as the features of claim 1 and present claim 8 are not disclosed or rendered obvious in the cited prior art.

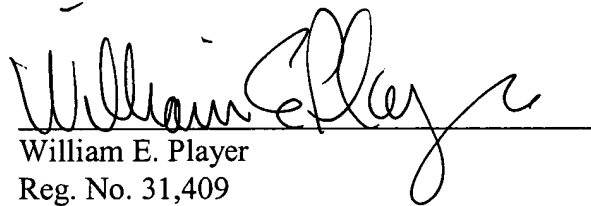
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Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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